

# **BUILDING CULTURAL IQ AND CULTURAL SENSITIVITY: A SEMESTER AT SEA TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

During the Semester at Sea (SAS) experience, faculty have the opportunity to serve as in the following roles: as trip liaisons, leading various student programs, while at port; as a teacher of 3 different academic courses during the semester, and leader of 3 different field classes in various countries related to the courses taught. Each semester, there are approximately 20 faculty members from universities from around the world, along with their companions and dependent children; approximately 500 university students; and dozens of retired or semi-retired lifelong learners, and their companions on a voyage that lasts approximately 105 days visiting approximately 11 countries and cities spanning 2 or 3 continents. Each evening is full of enriching evening seminars that are offered by faculty experts, interport lecturers and diplomats from various countries related to various international topics. The SAS experience is a learning opportunity for both students and faculty, and even the most seasoned travelers and expatriates can further build their cultural IQ and cultural sensitivity while exploring the world. Faculty learn new technical skills, leadership skills, and develop meta-skills and character strengths related to resiliency, self-care/kindness, innovation, mindfulness, perseverance, self-awareness, flexibility, changing one's mindset, and overcoming challenges, judgments and assumptions.

**Keywords:** Character Strengths, Cultural IQ, Expatriate, Resilience, Study Abroad